

OPINION 1766

***Tortaxis* Pilsbry, 1906 and *Allopeas* Baker, 1935 (Mollusca, Gastropoda): conserved by the designation of a neotype for *Achatina erecta* Benson, 1842**

Ruling

(1) Under the plenary powers all previous fixations of type specimens for the nominal species *Achatina erecta* Benson, 1842 are hereby set aside and specimen no. 1991104A in the Natural History Museum, London, is designated as the neotype.

(2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:

(a) *Tortaxis* Pilsbry, 1906 (gender: masculine), type species by original designation *Achatina erecta* Benson, 1842;

(b) *Allopeas* Baker, 1935 (gender: neuter), type species by original designation *Bulinus gracilis* Hutton, 1834.

(3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:

(a) *erecta* Benson, 1842, as published in the binomen *Achatina erecta* and as defined by the neotype designated in (1) above (specific name of the type species of *Tortaxis* Pilsbry, 1906);

(b) *gracilis* Hutton, 1834, as published in the binomen *Bulinus gracilis* (specific name of the type species of *Allopeas* Baker, 1935);

(c) *achatinaceus* Pfeiffer, 1846, as published in the binomen *Bulinus achatinaceus* and as defined by the lectotype (no. ZMB Moll 65746 in the Pfeiffer collection in the Humboldt Zoologisches Museum, Berlin) designated by Naggs (1994).

History of Case 2833

An application for the conservation of *Tortaxis* Pilsbry, 1906 and *Allopeas* Baker, 1935 by the designation of a neotype for *Achatina erecta* Benson, 1842 (the type species of *Tortaxis*) was received from Mr Fred Naggs (*The Natural History Museum, London, U.K.*) on 11 October 1991. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 49: 258–260 (December 1992). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

A comment from Mr Naggs, published in BZN 50: 228 (September 1993), noted that four shells in the Natural History Museum, London, U.K., labelled and catalogued as syntypes of *Achatina erecta* Benson, 1842, were specimens of *Bulinus achatinaceus* Pfeiffer, 1846 (p. 82), and that this name would also be conserved by the proposed Commission action.

B. achatinaceus was described from Java; it is a common and widespread species around the Indo-Pacific region. Naggs (1994, p. 80, fig. 1) designated a lectotype for the taxon. A proposal to place the specific name of *B. achatinaceus* Pfeiffer, 1846 on the Official List, in addition to the names in para. 9 on BZN 49: 259, was included on the voting paper.

Naggs, F. 1994. The reproductive anatomy of *Paropeas achatinaceum* and a new concept of *Paropeas* (Pulmonata: Achatinoidea: Subulinidae). *Journal of Molluscan Studies*, 60: 79–95.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 December 1993 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 49: 259, together with the addition noted above. At the close of the voting period on 1 March 1994 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 25: Bayer, Bock, Bouchet, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Hahn, Heppell, Holthuis, Kabata, Kraus, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Savage, Schuster, Starobogatov, Štys, Thompson, Trjapitzin, Uéno, Willink

Negative votes — none.

No votes were received from Halvorsen and Lehtinen.

Dupuis and Ride were on leave of absence.

Heppell noted that the type series of *Achatina erecta* Benson, 1842 included specimens of both *Bulimus gracilis* Hutton, 1834 and *B. achatinaceus* Pfeiffer, 1846; he commented that the designation of a neotype for *A. erecta* sensu Reeve (1849) in accordance with usage was only justified if it were clear that no syntypes existed which belonged to this taxonomic species. (Mr Naggs replied that no such material could be found in the institution housing most of Benson's collection (the Zoological Museum, Cambridge), or in other institutions where further Benson material was kept (the Smithsonian Institution, Washington; the Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta; and the Natural History Museum, London)).

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

achatinaceus, *Bulimus*, Pfeiffer, 1846, *Symbolae ad Historiam Heliceorum*, part 3, p. 82.

Allopeas Baker, 1935, *The Nautilus*, 48(3): 84.

erecta, *Achatina*, Benson, 1842, *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, (1)9: 487.

gracilis, *Bulimus*, Hutton, 1834, *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, 3: 93.

Tortaxis Pilsbry, 1906, in: Tryon, G.W., Jr, *Manual of Conchology*, ser. 2, vol. 18 (Pulmonata), p. 5.